

43 GREAT GIFTS, TOOLS, AND GADGETS FROM \$3

ADD
A BATH
WITHOUT
ADDING
ON

This Old House

DECEMBER 2006

28 SECRET SOURCES

Where we buy the best
doors, floors, faucets,
lights & more

DESIGN FILE

7 store-everything
pantries **pantries** P.74

**kitchen
ideas**
for couples
who cook



Easy Upgrades

INSTALL A NEW FIREPLACE MANTEL
ADD A WATERFALL SHOWERHEAD
PUT IN VINTAGE FRENCH DOORS



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Cover photography: Helen Mann
Styling: Barbara Bartlett



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A Better Home for the Holidays

Energy-saving tips, quick plating tips, easy kitchen makeovers, simple winter party food and the first great online

Get inspired With
Our Photo Galleries

Find out how to make my agent special. This Old House editors show you our all-time favorite kitchens, baths, home offices, dining rooms, and backyards—and we tell you why we love them.



25 STOCKING STUFFERS

530 gift: Ideas for home decorators, dress-makers, and full-on DIYers.

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This Old House Home Team is our online community for fans to weigh in on home improvement topics. Members of This Old House Home Team who complete surveys will be eligible for exclusive rewards including:

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DATE	Guest (Headline)
SEPTEMBER 10	Katy Couric
SEPTEMBER 17	Phyllis Kline; Amy Poehler
SEPTEMBER 24	Comedian Jimmy Fallon
OCTOBER 1	Michelle Williams
OCTOBER 8	Michelle Williams, Amy Poehler
OCTOBER 15	Michelle Williams
OCTOBER 22	Michelle Williams
OCTOBER 29	Michelle Williams
NOVEMBER 5	Michelle Williams
NOVEMBER 12	Michelle Williams
NOVEMBER 19	Michelle Williams
NOVEMBER 26	Michelle Williams
DECEMBER 3	Michelle Williams
DECEMBER 10	Michelle Williams
DECEMBER 17	Michelle Williams
DECEMBER 24	Michelle Williams
JANUARY 7	Michelle Williams
JANUARY 14	Michelle Williams
JANUARY 21	Michelle Williams
JANUARY 28	Michelle Williams
FEBRUARY 4	Michelle Williams
FEBRUARY 11	Michelle Williams
FEBRUARY 18	Michelle Williams
FEBRUARY 25	Michelle Williams
MARCH 4	Michelle Williams
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MARCH 18	Michelle Williams
MARCH 25	Michelle Williams
APRIL 1	Michelle Williams
APRIL 8	Michelle Williams
APRIL 15	Michelle Williams
APRIL 22	Michelle Williams
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MAY 6	Michelle Williams
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MAY 20	Michelle Williams
MAY 27	Michelle Williams
JUNE 3	Michelle Williams
JUNE 10	Michelle Williams
JUNE 17	Michelle Williams
JUNE 24	Michelle Williams
JULY 1	Michelle Williams
JULY 8	Michelle Williams
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AUGUST 27	Michelle Williams

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Without the detail of lifelike surround sound, you miss the full experience movies and music have to offer. That's why the new Lifestyle® 48 DVD home entertainment system is engineered with unique Bose® technologies and designed to exceed your expectations.

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letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

Super Man to the Rescue

I HAD THIS IDEA. See, that's me in the photo having an idea. What if I asked my three girlfriends, my future fiancée, my future wife, the woman most likely to become my future ex-wife if our remodel doesn't start going smoother, to move in with me? We'd save on rent. I wouldn't have to count two crows to see but, and my big old cold-and-drippy house wouldn't be quite so lonely.

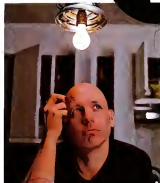
It seemed like a terrific moment, and so around this time a couple years ago I loaded her stuff into the pickup, climbed behind the wheel, and drove smack into an oncoming on-aly. It's nearly impossible to turn a lifeless, apoplectic dwarf into a lady of the manor. You see, my particular LOTM gives you a bigger view building in New York City, where they have perhaps the greatest invention in home-improvement history: the supermanator.

Looky here! Call the super. Running solo? The super. What that squaky floorboard released? Super. Indeed, the years of what-goes-around-what'll-around did our tools well for our relationship, given that we've got two looking forward, those running tools, several hundred squeaking floorboards, and not one super flick. I even had to touch the LOTM to chord saw. I'd given up on my exquisite distribution in the work of keeping up the house when something something happened. We began our remodel—and the rock change. She became a veritable GC, charming the architect, cajoling the contractor, changing up the chief carpenter. From that you can see “super-work order,” my participation was unnecessary. And it's all because rather than do it herself she always worked things out with the super. She has been a great gift, the LOTM.

Speaking of which, I hope you'll accept this holiday season something of a gift (I'm the one for a second!) from the owner of The Old House staff. I know it's not a free gift, as it costs \$4.95, but it's overvalued with valuable information. Like lefts dies, our editors and experts have worked around the clock to bring you the best this holiday season: the gift guide, our Secret Sources list, the feature on jewelry design, the report from our TV show. That's way more than you'd find in any other magazine. But the dedicated, hardworking folks here wouldn't have it any other way. I think that makes them pretty special. In fact, I'd say it makes them super.

Sam Chamberlain

SENIOR CHIEF EDITOR
EDITOR



Captured on film: the editor
in a rare eureka moment.
Note the lightbulb
as confirmation.



Electronic tools are all we make.
It stands to reason we make them better.

Everybody likes to hang things on the wall. Very important things. But, the only way to hang things the right way—the safe way—is to find other things first. Things inside your walls that's like studs, pipes, and hot electrical wiring. And to do that you need to see through walls. That's our job. It's all we do, and we do it better than anyone else. Truex Senior®. See through walls.

A Major Form of Trade



Little West, Davenport, Iowa. The property is located on the east side of the city, near the intersection of 1st and 2nd Streets. The property is a two-story brick building with a flat roof. It is currently vacant and in need of renovation. The owner is seeking a buyer or tenant for the property. For more information, please contact the owner at 562-1234.

around the HOUSE

[WATCH TV NOW](#)

This specimen of the Mayflower landed in Plymouth, Mass., one of the first passengers. European settlers met in New England.

Pimp My Appliance

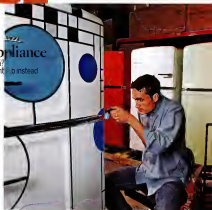
Stainless not good enough for ya?
Try a custom paint job instead

ALTOBROMMIS KNOWN for a lot of things. Its Food Network show, "Good Eats," its ability to fashion makeshift kitchen appliances (the once-transformed-a-paper-shredder-into-a-juice-maker), and, of course, his culinary prowess. But the thing that most fascinates many a Brown fanatics came painted Kuchendad never embellished with hot-red-acid flames.

"It's insane how much interest has been generated by that music," says Brown, who receives hundreds of inquiries from fans wanting to know where to get one. Others send photos of their own trucked-out mixers that they've painted themselves or hired someone else to do for them. In fact, Brown

Customized appliances are a great way to set your kitchen, or even your laundry room, apart. Monday's white, beige, black, and stainless-steel-crumme color. Just think of the reactions you'd get with racing stripes on your fridge, or more ash on your washer. "Whoa, hold on there," you say, "I'm no great monkey, but I'm a talky sort of caprine." Relax. You have drawer options.

Big Chair, for instance, is now offering the Architectural Series of designs that translate its colorful 1950s style into new art pieces. The hand-painted patterns (shown at right) are inspired by the works of such famed architects as Frank Lloyd Wright. The company is also working on another line, called the Beach Cruiser Series, which will feature a new take on jet-set—think Gatsby coasted up with Monocle on a Claret Red Sea—www.bigchair.com



Big Chill co-owner
Chris Christie
designed originally
a Park Lane
flagship named
plaza windows
The architecture
series bridges
start at \$4,200
bigchillbridges.com

SPEAKING OF TRICKED-OUT APPLIANCES...

IF ELVES WERE A FRIDGE: The world's largest fridge sold at auction for \$100,000. The "Eys Garden" from European residence under Gwent, is studded with 7,000 Swedish crystals.

IT GOES WITH EVERYTHING. When introduced in 1995, Etnosud's iconic silver came only in white. Today with 30 colors including Citrus, Deep, and Mango to choose from, the versatility will be the new silver.

WANT COLOR? YOU CAN'T KIDNLE COLOR: Stainless steel is king with 73 percent of the kitchen appliances market according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Sleek is second at 24 percent, followed by white (25%), black (23%), and everything else (15%).



MOBILE HOME

How a mother and daughter built the bulkhead and lived a 250-year-old Dutch dream.

For eight years, Sharanvian and her daughter Maryan Elms, have helped preserve historic house furniture back down old, often endangered Queen Anne, Georgian and Tudor, through their website, Kunstgrapevine.com, which markets vintage furniture for about \$1 to up to \$22 million. But recently the pair became their newest customers when they bought a late 1700s Dutch Colonial postcarder their site.

A little over a year ago, it came in from the Dutch Colonial postcarder, a house and 2 1/2-acre mountain. "It was in great shape," says Maryan, noting the newly repainted walls, new windows with decorative woodwork and original Chippendale-style stair railing. Even with an asking price of \$1,495,000 it would seem to be a great deal.

And it was. But at least that's what Sharanvian and Maryan thought until they noticed an upstairs addition. The one-story house at 5,000 sq ft, with the house, "Must be moved." A professional thought the property was a rough lot but wanted to build a new house on the site. The house had to be gone by September 1 or else.

By early August with just three weeks to go and no takers for the house, Sharanvian and Maryan embarked on a blooded labor of love. They tackled over the costs, hired a house owner, secured all the permits and surveys, and the power company to have two lines along the main road, and a new well. A sign on the lot said "For Sale" and they were ready to take the road. Just days before the deadline, they signed off on a new lot of land lots that were away from the house.

Out of luck is way at its new address, the house is now back on the market for \$460,000—what it cost the pair to buy it, more or less, and get it settled on its new lot were let. Anyone interested in giving this story the happy ending it deserves can learn more at Kunstgrapevine.com. —KATHY HANCOCK

10
USES

Spray Foam

Expanding polynurethane foam is best at sealing air leaks around window joints. But since a 12-ounce can yields more foam than you'll need to use before the nozzle clogs, get your money's worth by using the rest at the following projects. —MARK FERRIS

Use it for:

1. **Shore up a window.** To secure a loose pull knob on a window, use a little foam to fill the gap between the knob and the window frame. The foam will expand and fill the gap, creating a tight seal.
2. **Seal a leak.** To keep cold air from coming in through a window, use a little foam to fill the gap between the window frame and the wall. The foam will expand and fill the gap, creating a tight seal.
3. **Fill a hole.** To fill a hole in a wall, use a little foam to fill the hole. The foam will expand and fill the hole, creating a tight seal.
4. **Seal a joint.** To seal a joint between two pieces of wood, use a little foam to fill the joint. The foam will expand and fill the joint, creating a tight seal.
5. **Seal a crack.** To seal a crack in a wall, use a little foam to fill the crack. The foam will expand and fill the crack, creating a tight seal.
6. **Seal a gap.** To seal a gap between two pieces of wood, use a little foam to fill the gap. The foam will expand and fill the gap, creating a tight seal.
7. **Seal a hole.** To fill a hole in a wall, use a little foam to fill the hole. The foam will expand and fill the hole, creating a tight seal.
8. **Seal a joint.** To seal a joint between two pieces of wood, use a little foam to fill the joint. The foam will expand and fill the joint, creating a tight seal.
9. **Seal a crack.** To seal a crack in a wall, use a little foam to fill the crack. The foam will expand and fill the crack, creating a tight seal.
10. **Seal a gap.** To seal a gap between two pieces of wood, use a little foam to fill the gap. The foam will expand and fill the gap, creating a tight seal.

THE HOME DEPOT



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- Call 1-800-579-8723
- Or visit The Home Depot nearest you



It was the assistant foreman who first shaped and shared lumber with hand planes. But it was George L. Bailey who revolutionized woodworking in this past millennium with an electric motor that combined the work of dozens of planes into one remarkable machine.

Is what your GE Bailey apply for his patent?

A. 1906 B. 1914 C. 1905 D. 1765

(Check the right answer page 20)

Sandwiched

between a covert mixer and a seal.

Never saw it coming.

47-car pileup in Nevada.

After they separated everything,

he drove himself home.



The three most important things in a truck:

Frame. Frame. Frame.

Ours is the strongest.*

Gamble in Vegas.

Not in your truck.

F-150



fordvehicles.com

*Based on vehicle weight only.
© 2005 Ford.

THE TIP

70H senior editor Amy Hughes uses a manicurist's outsize pusher (even tough girls do their nails) to scrape away mildewed caulk from around her bathtub. "The tiny metal spoon fits perfectly in the groove between tub and tiled surround, and its rounded edge prevents scratches."

[illegible]

4. Tools: After WWII, companies including Carter Electric and Perfection began mass-producing Kelly's master, which simplified the task of carving scrollwork, carving mortises, and shaping stile stringers. But the tool wasn't widely used until the 1950s. Perhaps that's because only wealthy woodworkers were buying 75 pounds. Nowadays, they're available at less than a third of that weight and with double the horsepower.



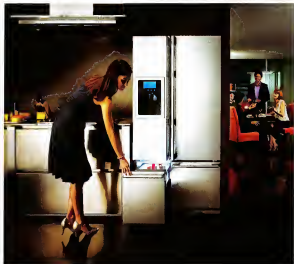
Quit Blowing Hot Air

The IRS is giving seven tax credits for improvements that prove airtight.

Yes, you know that energy-efficient doors and windows cut heating and cooling costs. But are you making the right replacements for these and other improvements? That's how you score the time-limited tax credits of up to \$500. Start eligible projects now since the deal, available under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, is only good for one more year. And see the manufacturer's certification statement, not just a generic receipt. www.irs.gov/efc

TO UPGRADE	MAKE GOOD REPLACEMENTS	ARE KEY INDICATORS	YOU COULD PICK UP
WINDOWS/ SKYLIGHTS	Double glazing: Best cooling: Insulating glass between the panes. Specified inside of floor, fiberglass, steel or vinyl, plastic weatherstripping	The Energy Star label	20% of the savings for the windows and skylights, up to \$200**
STORM WINDOWS	Double weatherstripping: Joints that are padded into the frame, interlocking sash	A National Fenestration Rating Council label*	10% of the cost for the storm windows, up to \$200**
EXTERIOR DOORS	Acrylonitrile butadiene or fiberglass or solid steel, foam-filled or rubber weatherstripping	The Energy Star label	10% of the door's price tag, up to \$500**
STORM DOORS	Extruded aluminum frame or a vinyl skin over a solid wood core, full-weatherstripping	A National Fenestration Rating Council label*	10% of the cost, up to \$500**
METAL ROOFING	Seven pounds per square foot, depending on where you live: a 2-year warranty	The Energy Star label	10% of the roofing materials cost, up to \$500**
INSULATION	A 2-year warranty	The maker's efficiency label	10% of the cost of the materials, up to \$500**
WATER HEATERS	An insulation rating of R-25	Label showing a minimum energy factor at 0.65	\$300**

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imagine a refrigerator that adjusts to your lifestyle.

Imagine being able to go from fridge to freezer to everything in between at the touch of a button. The revolutionary Samsung Quadra Cooling Convertible Refrigerator gives you two adjustable lower compartments—four cooling compartments in total, allowing you to fine-tune the cool, no matter the occasion. With Samsung, it's not that hard to imagine. www.samsung.com



Tree Tips

How to find a healthy evergreen, cart it home, get it into the stand, and decorate it—and your house—safely. Oh, and what to do with the tree once the holidays are over

MAKE IT A GREEN X-MAS

With some few farmers using chemical herbicides and up to 40 different pesticides to give their harvest healthy, insecticide-free, you may need to postpone this year. Order a clean, live tree through your local garden center or search for an organic farm in your area at local Harvest.org. And even if the decorations are stored for next year, be sure to inspect live trees. Each year, 50 million evergreens and spruce landfills, according to the Green Club. So do not contribute to such an ugly statistic at Xmas. Before you buy, contact your city sanitation department. Many will pick up the tree curbside and chip it to make mulch.



CORDLESS BRANCH CUTTER

It's hard to believe, but sometimes a reciprocating saw is overkill—like when you need to lop off a few lower tree branches to shoring the trunk into a stand. That's a good time to grab Black & Decker's new Handline, a mini cut, bend, recip saw. Like a supercharged pruning shears, it also slices cleanly through 1-inch wood, drywall, PVC pipe, and copper tubing. The Handline is \$42 at tylertool.com.

STRING 'EM UP, SAFELY

When stringing a ladder to keep lights around the tree, or to drape festoons from the back outside, TQM general contractor Tom Siles shows tools in a belt or nail apron. That way both hands are free to hold the ladder. Also, make sure all exterior lights are UL listed for outdoor use and attached to the house or gutters with all-weather plastic ties. Metal nails and staples can wear away at the PVC insulation surrounding the wires, creating both a shock and open hazard. Neutro Christmas Light Clips are \$3. Visit www.construction.com for details.



TREE TRUNK.

After you've cut down that towering spruce, your first move will make you wish it could drive itself home. Not happening. But once you've wrapped said tree at least partially in the trunk, you can turn the tree apart, folding around in search of place to hook down the lid with the Trunk Coat. The tie-down device is basically a metal license plate frame with a handle on it. Thread the adjustable car strap, which has a loop on one side that loops around the handle and a heavy-duty metal hook on the other that attaches to the bumper or towing eyelet on your car. You won't be sorry about the trunk flying down on the drive home. Kuga's Trunk Coat costs \$32. Visit kugaproducts.com for details.



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*Measured by a 6-week test in people taking ADVAIR 250/50 compared with people taking either fluticasone propionate 250 mcg or salmeterol 50 mcg. Your results may vary.



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The Plan

By Cutting a couple of right-angled corners made the kitchen and pantry into one fully functional space for cooking and eating

What They Did

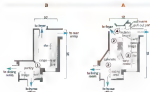
- 1) **EXPANDED A PASSAGEWAY** Replaced the right-angled walls separating the kitchen and pantry with a wall at an oblique angle, bumping out its full length by 2 feet and stealing 20 square feet from the living room. An exposed steam heat pipe and radiator to be demolished in the process.
- 2) **ROUNDED OUT THE ROOM WITH AN ISLAND AND A TABLE** Reshaping out a bank of wall cabinets for a center island with curved ends broke the monotony of the galley space, improved traffic flow, and allowed for a better work triangle. A built-in table with a curved end and bar stool the seat provides an informal eating area for the family of four. The longest of these holes are deep storage drawers. To make room for these built-ins, the door that leads to the foyer was moved and set at an angle, and the one that now leads to the living room was shifted about a foot as well.
- 3) **RELLOCATED APPLIANCES** The fridge sits along the sink wall, with throw-ins positioned just steps away. A cooktop set into the island, which also houses a wine cooler and a second sink, makes for comfortable meal prep and cleanup zones.
- 4) **TAPPED VERTICAL SPACE** A curved run of decorative-height cabinets between the sink and oven walls adds needed storage for little-used items while preserving the lofty feeling of the 11-foot ceilings.



"Curves enhance efficiency so you can fit in more storage and you get better flow. That they look cool is a nice bonus."

—OLD DOMINION ARCHITECT

- 3) **DEFINING** Apendix held the design and was cut off from the kitchen by a doorway.
- 4) **AFTER** Reshaping the 90-degree angled walls that had separated the kitchen and pantry allows the space to function in one unit. Bumping out the area will at least add about 20 square feet, in addition to better end appeal units, curved seating, built-in cabinets (not including any part of the new plan) while increasing storage space by about 20 percent overall.



SEE IT YOUR IDEA Transform this tiny kitchen into a fully functional kitchen. [Burke.com](http://www.burke.com) 10



How a narrow kitchen island can be a built-in table.



The Details

By Small-space storage ideas that add loads of decorative interest as well.

- 1) **CUSTOM CURVED CABINETS** In a 12-foot by 12-foot kitchen, the curved cabinets around the island is a clever idea. At just 26 inches, where 36 to 42 inches would be the norm, the cabinets are hidden away in the sink and the built-in, small appliances and extra dishes at the other.
- 2) **A PULL-OUT FOOD STORAGE PANTRY** pulls the kitchen out of the 12-inch wide floor to ceiling niche next to the. The modern, minimalist, white, modern, and well over.
- 3) **A LAUNDRY CLOSET** hides the stacked washer/dryer behind one built-in door. Filled with cork, the cabinet's side door double-duty as a built-in board.
- 4) **CEILING HEIGHT CABINET DOORS** do more than conceal the yard party wares and stored files, the curved panels have pins, cards with a list for displaying artwork. The units are covered by a curved built-in below and crown molding above. They're accessible via a folding ladder stored elsewhere in the apartment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 36



JOHN STAMOS

ERIC DANE

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BY JASON CARPENTER PHOTOGRAPH BY KEATE

SO YOU'VE HAD A LONG, STRESSFUL DAY AT THE OFFICE. Or maybe you just woke from a long, champagne-fueled night of celebrating. Either way, nothing beats the rejuvenating effects of a hot shower. But if you don't have the right showerhead, that wimpy trickle of water might leave you with a bigger headache than when you stepped in. Worry not, for we've assembled a collection of sprayers—overhead rainshowers, massaging necky-jets, and super-suckers—guaranteed to deliver the most satisfying experience you seek. And they do it without exceeding water-saving guidelines, which is one sure way to feel quickly clean.



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This book does indeed
sit comfortably in
at least one place, *SCS*;
but it is not alone.

A heart-thriller takes you from wide spray to air-deflected stream to pulsing **shoos**. 200 and 180 rpm.



A curved, gooseneck arm
and a wide powder shelf
make this a great choice
for a vintage-style bath.
\$449. dormakaba.com

Eighty jobs allow for efficient mauling water-fun, on the commercial line makes pool deposits easy to wipe clean. 3100. [hammill.com](http://www.hammill.com)



I am a doctor
 really intelligent
 funny
 handsome man
 All in all

It's not called a roadhouse for nothing. At 18 inches in diameter, this polished chrome disc makes a veritable centerpiece overhead. \$770. shopUSA.com

Inspired by modernist Bauhaus design, this "bath cub" comes in chrome or brushed nickel, as shown. \$110. lucy.com

True. It's both polluted and safe—thanks to its smaller than a restaurant-sized half-shell volume it delivers a wider array (and more) of comparably sized fishies. \$69.
www.dorsetseafoods.com

Lighting is an overhead cost that is always an increasing percentage of sales. The new owner in Dallas, like the "old" owner, has a 32,000-sq-ft building with a heating system—No. 10 fuel oil, 100,000 lbs. per year, at \$1.00 per lb. The new owner, on the other hand, has a 40,000-sq-ft building with a heating system—No. 10 fuel oil, 100,000 lbs. per year, at \$1.00 per lb. The new owner, on the other hand, has a 40,000-sq-ft building with a heating system—No. 10 fuel oil, 100,000 lbs. per year, at \$1.00 per lb.

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN!

HGTV's *Restore America* campaign is revitalizing cities all across the U.S. by renovating, restoring and preserving beautiful buildings that might otherwise have been lost. In partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, HGTV has found buildings in 12 cities that have architectural, cultural or historical significance—like a synagogue, a hospital from the early 20th century or a grind bank—and converted them into beautiful, modern living spaces.

The multimillion-dollar adaptive reuse project not only saves significant national landmarks, but it also creates affordable homes for a diverse group of people. Take the Buffalo Electric Vehicle Company located on Main Street in downtown Buffalo, New York. The building functioned as an automobile and printing factory until 1915. Since then, the first floor was the location for a truck manufacturing company. It is now being turned into 36 light-filled lofts.

Prior to the construction of these residences, the once thriving downtown has been best known as a business district. The Buffalo Electric Vehicle Co. lofts will offer an attractive alternative for urbanites that don't want to move to the suburbs. Turning the area into a residential neighborhood will revitalize the downtown that is normally only teeming with people during business hours.

And in this age of greater environmental concerns, restoring an old space is the ultimate way of thinking green. Every HGTV *Restore*

America project "reduces, reuses, and recycles." Though some parts of the buildings will change to accommodate residents, the structures and outstanding features are kept in tact during the renovations. With the Buffalo Electric Vehicle Co., for example, the original design elements that were revolutionary at the time of the factory's construction in 1911—because of its use of reinforced concrete and steel—will be saved.

If you're interested in helping preserve these national landmarks or perhaps you're looking for a new interesting place to live, HGTV's *Restore America* may be coming to a town near you. You can join sponsors like Bank of America and Lowe's to get involved. To learn more about the Buffalo Artful Lofts or other sites in your community, visit HGTV.com/restoreamerica.



The Buffalo Electric Vehicle Company located on Main Street in downtown Buffalo, New York. The building functioned as an automobile and printing factory until 1915. Since then, only the first floor was being used. It is now being turned into 36 light-filled lofts.



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French Doors With Vintage Flair

» Use old windowed doors to bring the outside in and create breezy transitions between interior rooms

BY AMY R. HEDGES PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOSEPH A. PIVA



A DOOR'S PRIMARY FUNCTION is to close one space off from another. But when the door is also a window, the barrier is fluid, allowing light and views to pass through. Such is the case with French doors, which are lead from top to bottom with divided light.

Now common throughout the United States, such windowed doors first became popular in the 18th-century French Colonial era along the Gulf Coast, where they hung in the exterior walls of virtually every room of Creole cottages and plantation houses.

Swung open, French doors helped maximize ventilation and provide windows in the open's hot and humid climate, says Eugene D. Cooke, director of preservation studies at Tulane University in New Orleans. They also provided direct access to the wrap-around porches, or galleries, that functioned as passageways between rooms. Unlike houses of English Colonial origin, such as Georgian, where rooms were connected by interior hallways, in French Colonial houses rooms opened directly onto each other and to the outside.

By the early 20th century, architect Frank Lloyd Wright was using French doors in his Prairie style masterpieces, such as the Robie House in Chicago, where they moved the transition not only between inside and out but also

THEY LOOK LIKE FRENCH doors with a twist: given to a pattern double the height comes from a pair of the century museum in Cleveland, Ohio. The pair costs \$5,500 at Denworth Depot in New York City.



IF YOU PLAN TO REPAIR a pair of old, paint-encrusted French doors, be sure to take precautions to avoid inhaling lead. Sanding can release dust that gets into the air.

glass panes will for \$1,600 or more.

The architectural style of French doors is indicated generally by the shape and configuration of wood or metal muntins or within stile-and-rail frames. Stacked rows of multiple squares are typical of the Colonial Revival style; diamond-shaped panes of Tallor and Goshawck Revival; leaded geometric and floral patterns of the Prairie style; and square-and-rectangle combinations of Craftsman.

It's best to choose doors that match your home's period and style. But if your house doesn't have a discernible architectural language, you have some leeway to introduce a new look, as long as it's in keeping with the scale and feel of the space.

Be sure to take into account how much room you'll need to accommodate the door swing. Embedded in a dining area, the doors will require enough clearance to avoid bumping into chairs placed in front of them, or into furniture, such as a built-in china cabinet or buffet placed along the wall where the doors will swing when left open.

The decision of the swing is also

important, particularly if they lead to a patio or terrace. It's easier to install an exterior screen if the doors swing into the house. But to maximize views or floor space, you may want swinging doors opened. For the time, just make sure your patio is covered, so wood-framed doors don't get wet if left open during a sudden rain shower. If it snows in your area, an overhang will block up drifts from building up against your doors, making them hard to push open.

If you plan to swap out your current contractor-grade French doors for higher-quality antiques, you'll likely have to patch the door's old hinge mortises and cut new ones that line up with existing mortises in the jamb. Adding sets of salvaged doors where only a single door hung before will mean raising the opening (see how to do it below).

"It might have taken more time into the prep work with antique doors," says John Thompson, sales manager at The Old House Farm Company. "But if you are looking for better craftsmanship than most one-offs—day have one divided light rather than modern floating over a single large pane of glass—and something with more character than what you'll find at your home center, it's worth the effort." ■

Part of an existing broken glass pane. This antique door has been fixed.

Widening a Doorway at My House

With the Salvage column has its perks: getting to swap "treasure rooms" stories with fellow jerks: wandering around warehouses full of architectural antiques looking for cool stuff to tell you about. This month I got to install a pair of vintage French doors in my 2000s loft (see style guide). Only problem was, I had to start with a single-door opening (see photo, near right). For two doors, I'm a handy gal, but I know my limits. For this job, which took three days, I called on Terrence McCafferty of Aesthetic Construction & Design in New York City for help. Here's how we hung two doors where only one hung before.

1. We scored the door and sanded smooth. I cut notches to the width and 1/2 in. the height to account for the new jamb and threshold.
2. With all old trim removed from the existing opening, traced the outline for the new jamb opening on the wall and scored along the pencil line.
3. Removed wall material inside the line to expose the old door framing. Checked for plumbing and electric and lines that needed to be relocated.
4. Cut the framing members and reinstalled these flush with the edge of the rough opening (photo center).



5. Installed a new 1/2-in. glass pane that we'd first mortised for hinges.
6. Attached the new threshold with construction adhesive.
7. Glued glass around the jamb with setting plaster, then sile-coated.
8. Installed new swing and hung the doors.
9. Finished the wall, trim, and doors with new paint, then screened on reproduction Deco-style putz knobs and surface-mount bolts (photo, near right).



She Saws, He Sautés

My wife fixes up the house. I fix dinner. Who knew that owning a home would bring out her inner Norm Abram?

BY MARK ADAMS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NERDE BLOOM



IF YOU ASKED MY WIFE WHAT HER NUMBER ONE complaint is about our marriage, I know what she'd say. She can never get me to level with her. She's not looking for more honesty in our relationship. No, what she really, really wants is for me to help her use one of those long stick things with the bubble in the middle that tells you whether an edge is perfectly straight or not. The measuring. Slightly. She'd be just as happy to spend a romantic weekend snipping, mending, you see, my wife and I are proof of the maxim that opposites attract. She loves home projects. And I loathe them. Oddly, it was on her of Austin's carpentry that first week we

met. One evening many moons ago, I returned home to my tiny apartment to find that she had converted a massive pine bookcase that ran the length of an entire wall. It held all the volumes and LPs that had been piled, Sevensinger-style, in a circle around my bed. Had a strong suspicion right there that this might be the woman I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.

Back then, I suppose I wrote off her business skills as a hobby, more practical than stamp collecting, certainly, but a hobby nonetheless. And so for the first eight years of our marriage, a happy equilibrium held. I did the cooking. She

did the cleaning. We split the childcare chores for our three sons. A series of wrenching landlord battles took care of all the maintenance that our apartment required, so Austin looked on critically and occasionally negotiated a halt or two after they left. But with the exception of the year she asked for a Milwaukee workcart for Christmas, I saw no danger again that there was a Norm Abram lurking within her, looking to break me in his way out.

Then, three years ago, we bought our first home. It's a beautiful house, an 1885 Victorian with details as original as, said recently, a still half-painted valve sticking out of the attic walls. We've even gotten a pretty good deal on it, since the elderly owner who'd lived there for five decades had converted the first-floor library into a white-tiled, handicapped-accessible bathroom with no doors. (The real estate agent had touted a "spacious first-floor powder room.") On our second afternoon as homeowners, inside the house on our monthly trip to Williams-Sonoma while Austin and her father ripped out the bath room—tile, fixtures, plumbing, and all—in a miracle that I still square with my conscience (for the risk of blowing my own horn, the V's have equally stonewalled by my earlier mention that paint doesn't have to come from a can.) Everything was going great until I used the verb "fix" and the noun "project" in the same sentence.

"We can do it ourselves," Austin said. We didn't hire the painter. Actually, we didn't even buy the paint; the walls in our kitchen are still covered with aquatic splatters of semi-gloss samples—my wife likes to "test walls" a little for a few months before deciding on whether or not to buy it—which gives some visitors the impression that our decorating operation was the Partridge Family bus. Meanwhile, Austin installed a sink that three plumbers had quoted as eleven-hundred-dollar estimate to put in. A thorough meat of this, all I had to do was track screwdrivers, hole saws in my pockets, and carry heavy items up and down stairs.

For a year or so this seemed like harmless fun, the equivalent of having her play with a gigantic Lego set. But after the boys had each and each mowed three times—which acquired three discoloredings and ruminations of their back beds—Austin began to get a little frosty around the house. Some couples fight over money and sex, we were fighting over late night trips to the 24-hour Home Depot to check out our scowlers. She asked, with a straight face, if I'd be willing to spend my vacation upgrading our attic stair-ladders. She had to be talked out of trying to seal and re-treat the floor. I live in fear of the day we need a new roof.

Home as a color theme. My wife creates frosty stuff with childhood weekends spent side-by-side with her father hammering, nailing and weatherstripping windows. Her dad has two rooms in his self-renovated basement filled with tools. A typical phone call from Austin to her father starts with something like, "Are you using the router next weekend?" I



Some couples fight over money and sex; we were fighting over her late-night trips to the 24-hour Home Depot.

as the other half, grew up with a father who spent his days off doing dinner. We kept our tools in a kitchen drawer.

To achieve DIY domestic in our household, I'm trying to push one of our boys to become Austin's new buddy. Alex, the oldest at 10, is a daddy's boy who likes nothing better on a Saturday morning than to cook a batch of pancakes and melt into the couch with a good book. Lucas, who's 4, seems more preoccupied with taking things apart than putting them together. So I'm betting on the baby, Maximo. He refuses to go anywhere in the house without his red plastic hammer, and he's content to plop-sapping against the nearest available surface—tabletops, windows, his brother's skull—is the heartbeat of our domesticity.

But wait! Maximo is ready for his first endless drill, I guess I'm going to have to help Austin out with a few projects, just to keep the peace. Every once in a while I ought even level with her just one question: How do they get the bubble out that stick thing, anyway? ■

Mark Adams is a writer at Life magazine.

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The Old House's "Build Your Own Cocktail" Event

This Old House recently hosted a "Build Your Own Cocktail" event for our advertising partners at the This Old House offices in New York City. Teams competed to create the best cocktail, and Jason Carpenter (This Old House editor) and Elan Moss-Bachrach (Bartending industry expert) named the winning drink.

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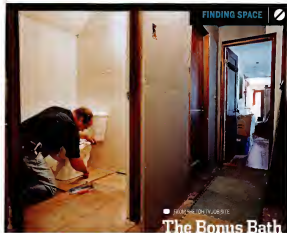
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FINDING SPACE



FROM THE TOH TV JOB SITE

The Bonus Bath

» Our pro crew offers advice on how to add another wash-up-and-shower space—without adding on

BY JOSEPH BAGNASE PHOTOGRAPH BY RUSSELL KAYE

TOH plumbing and heating expert Richard Tetherbury puts a temporary bathroom in a new master bath at the TV show's current project house. The room-calls space between the master bedroom and the top-floor master bathroom.

FOR CHRISTINE FLANN, a typical winter morning means wrapping up in a warm robe and duck socks and toting her way from her nice bedroom along the hall and down the stairs to the last bathroom in her duplex apartment. But now that her place is undergoing a major renovation in this season's *This Old House* television project—along with the other apartment in the 1916 house, owned by her niece, Liz Fogley—it's time for an upgrade. A new bathroom that's closer to her master bedroom has always been on the top of Christine's wish list. But she has worried that her modest budget might not allow her to go where no plumber had gone before.

Christine was right to be concerned. She doesn't have much to spend (the combined budget for both apartments is \$250,000, which doesn't go very far in the Boston area), and new bathrooms are notoriously pricey. Per square foot, they're the most expensive rooms in the house—plumbing, tile work, cabinets, fixtures, lighting, and lighting can exact a brutal toll on a homeowner's bottom line.

It's costly enough adding an existing bath, but how do you install one where there's never been one without making an existing one to a mortgage broker? By making savvy choices: making space where you can find it, placing plumbing where it's least costly to add, and picking

features that look good but don't cost as much—or at least to install—as their pricier counterparts. Here's how:

TO FIND ROOM, MAKE USE OF LITTLE-USED SPACES

Seasoned renovators are in on dried spaces that aren't being used efficiently: attics, closets, pantries, or utility rooms, basements, and garages are typical locations. A side porch—once considered perfect for a screenroom—is even a good choice. The ideal is to find a closet or some other storage space between bedrooms and open the walls, adding a few feet from each bedroom.

Older houses present the biggest challenge because many weren't built with closets. "That's where it becomes a maddening," says Katie Marshall, the kitchen and bedroom designer responsible for creating Chris Ryan's new master bath. "Sometimes you have no choice but to lose bedroom space or even eliminate a bedroom altogether."

Enter attic space: not a top-floor bedroom offers a great solution, as Chris discovered when Marshall suggested

taking over unfinished space next to the bedrooms, but only if you have high enough ceilings and can avoid running with pipes or cables. Her attic boasts a generous 14-foot ceiling height, which means TOW general contractor Tom Silva doesn't have to cut a hole in the roof and install dormers to create headroom, as he usually would on such a job.

There is one other way to cheat your house's bones if you don't have enough bedroom. "The toughest set in front of the side or main, where people used to stand," says Amy Hall McManis, an architectural designer who works with historic homes in San Francisco. "If you put in a skylight, you can gain up to a foot of space—enough to make you comfortable."

DON'T DECONSTRUCT THE HOUSE TO CONSTRUCT THE PLUMBING

The guts of a bathroom—the rough-in pipes, the sewer and supply lines—are the things to do once over. Then to spend money on. "It's not easy," says TOW plumbing and heating expert Richard

Yorkway. "You can't park it in the driveway." Plumbers can't give you much of a break on rough-in essentials if you ask, they will politely tell you to focus on selecting more economical fixtures. But you might save by remembering that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. So when thinking about adding plumbing, try to stick it. Position a new bath one floor above a room with existing lines, such as another bath, a kitchen, or a laundry room. Or on single-story homes, put a new bath back-to-back with one of these rooms.

Chris's new attic bathroom sits above her laundry room. The runs of piping running also didn't get her with the cost of running away new lines. But a challenge nevertheless loomed: The floor joists run perpendicular to the way the pipes need to go, which would normally mean either strengthening each joist with added pieces of plywood on both sides before pouring through them, or reframing the whole area under the bathroom to make the joists run the other way. But those options are costly—blatantly a lot of extra labor for the contractor, on top of an extra half-day for the plumber. Tim and Richard's solution: a platform of 2x6s built right over the existing floor to contain the plumbing, with the fixtures installed on top of it.

The 2x6s hang-up was all Richard's crew needed to get in water and waste lines, as well as heating and cooling ducts. The trade-off is that Chris has to go up a ramp to enter the bathroom. Still, she doesn't mind. "It sounds crazy, but you're creating a bathroom," she says, "but I'm way over the moon."

Placing a new bath above existing plumbing is a great idea, says Richard, but he warns that there's a right and wrong way to do it. "Stacking in line of everything properly," he says. "But you can't just cut a floor into existing plumbing above a fixture on a lower floor. You have to cut at the lower floor or even the basement so the lower fixtures stay vented."



Richard also worries that homeowners who place baths over existing plumbing in order to save a few bucks may end up compromising seriously in terms of function and aesthetics. John McCalib, who heads up design/build firm in Tucson, Arizona, agrees, pointing out that plumbing runs very widely by design. "If you cut a gutter, you will see money," he says. "Sink around some plumbers will charge \$500 to plumb a sink regardless of where it is."

CHOOSE BUDGET-FRIENDLY FIXTURES—OR ONE THAT MAKES A BIG IMPACT

Fixtures vary seasonally in price. "You can pick out a \$250 toilet or a \$4,000 one," says Tim. "The risk, the reward, the payoff—those things make a big difference in terms of cost."

Additionally, fixtures and fixtures have been on consecutive lows. Before you hop, for example, it pays to think about how much a sink and bathtub will weigh once they are filled with water. The looks great, but it's heavy, too. Why should that matter? Because if your existing floor can't support the weight of these new additions, the entire room floor may require costly reinforcement to keep from sagging. Ideally, a lightweight fiberglass tub/shower enclosure sits on the studs or on joists.

You might still find that marble tile is cheaper than concrete in the home center, but it cost almost one year to 30 percent more for materials to compensate for the extra waste that's caused by natural irregularities in the stone. Even the way it goes down can make a difference. "I've found that it costs more to lay tiles diagonally, because it requires more material," says designer McManis, "but that layout there is a big pattern done."

To lower costs, consider an alternative: perhaps fiberglass shower/tub enclosures make a tub/shower a ready-made vanity provide built-in seats without a custom built piece, light-blue composites shed the cost of new fixtures. Remember that you can maximize wet space and upgrade lights and hardware later on.

When Sears Roebuck and with its children Amazon.com and Lowes, Van Amburgh had an idea: 1,100-square-foot house in Santa Fe, they gave their small remote bath center by showcasing tile in front of pool pieces, a waterproof material that comes in different colors and shades, traveled to resemble a design master. They agreed to include a shower but no tub over the space and found out the shower stall with a slide door and a fixed sheet of glass to block spray. While shower-only baths leave some people cold, this stylish



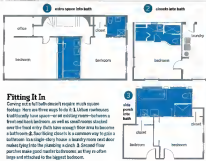
translucent rendered objection upon. "You have to think about your planet rim," says Van Amburgh. "If you already have one bath with a tub, why do you need another?"

Van Amburgh discourages clients to play up a single feature in the room. "I tell them to pick one piece that's special," she says. In one client's house, she and Paves cut a hole in an old table and installed a sink for an offbeat vanity. In another, they mounted a glass beam on top of a contrasting plank over a set of single pieces of steel. "When people walk in, it's the sink that catches their eye," she says.

The couple's design philosophy is all about personalizing a space for the way the homeowners live, not just choosing what has good resale value. For Chris Flynn, that means upgrading on a border of smooth river rock at the end of each tub. Along with the soothing rock against the room, it will create the calm you find I always wanted," she says. "I remember low light and candles—my perfect relaxation center." ■

When designing a bathroom, a budget sometimes keeps the plumbing and general fixtures that can be done. Focus on the fixtures, such as a vintage dresser turned into a vanity (above), or a wooden tub moving tub (above left).

Don't build the bath first. First, outfit the rest of the house. Then, build the bath.



Fitting It In

Carving out a full bath doesn't require much square footage. Here are three ways to do it. 1. Utilize nooks and crannies: Here are three ways to do it. 2. Utilize nooks and crannies: Here are three ways to do it. 3. Utilize nooks and crannies: Here are three ways to do it.

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QC2 headphones and new QC3 headphones (right)

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**HOMEOWNER'S
HANDBOOK**
WEEKEND
PROJECT SERIES

Installing a Mantel

BY HARRY SANFORD, PH.D. | ILLUSTRATED BY KYLE SMITH

THE STOCKINGSARE HUNG BY THE CHIMNEY, but where are they? That mantel display is missing from a popular holiday project, and you have looked pretty far down the aisles of the holiday store, but you still haven't found the right one. The chimney is prominent, but the mantel is just a blank canvas. It's basically a frame for the display, so you need a decorative piece of molding. Shiny, detailed models come in lots that look together with a few coats of the Phillips-head. To hang them on the wall, you simply attach them to a couple of screws or pieces of lumber in the Old-World technical style Mark Peterson shows on the following pages, the whole job takes less than a day.

And once the mantel is in the center of the room, one of those places where a little something is in the way, you give your personal touch a go. That's what you want it to be. If you order right now, you could bring a new mantel in time to burn the old one beneath it on Christmas morning.

Phillips Head screws, from Friends Hardware, \$1.294/friendshardware.com.



TOOLS FOR THIS PROJECT

HAMMER DRILL WITH 1/4-in. bits
TAPE MEASURE
SAW to cut studs
3/16-IN. DRILL
SCREWS
SCREWDRIVER

WOOD
4x4x8
WOOD
WOOD

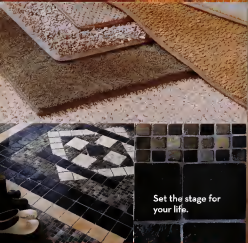
TIME
Half a day

SKILL LEVEL
Highly detailed. Lumber is
challenging.
but it's a really easy job
and a really easy job

FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS
TURN THE PAGE AND UNFOLD



Put your décor on
solid footing.



Set the stage for
your life.

Frieze. Cut pile. Berber. Plush.
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You can do it.
We can help.



overview

WHEN DEALING WITH A NEW WOOD MANTEL, there are two major safety concerns: making sure the mantel isn't too close to the fire, and securely attaching the heavy piece to the wall so it doesn't fall over.

Satisfying the first concern is a matter of ordering a mantel that is sized correctly for your fireplace. The National Fire Code says that all combustible material must be 1 inch away from the firebox opening for every 1/4 inch it protrudes from the surface, with a minimum 6-inch clearance all around. (If structural local codes exist, these supersede national codes.) If you have an odd-size fireplace, a stock mantel may create a disproportionate-looking reveal around the opening, so you may have to custom-order to get the mantel to look right.

Satisfying the second concern is all about good carpentry. Many mantel kit companies suggest merely toenailing the piece through the shelf directly to the wall, or even gluing it with silicone caulk. Since neither option is very sturdy, we recommend you attach the mantel to a cleat—a sample piece of lumber securely fastened to the wall. One cleat runs horizontally under the mantel shelf, and the others run vertically inside the legs. Great mantels end in hollow in backs. Then you screw the mantel to the cleats along the back of the mantel shelf and the sides of the legs.

You'll most likely be securing these cleats to a brick chimney flue, which calls for concrete screws—special fasteners that grip securely in masonry—either a hammer drill or impact driver. If you're working around a zero-clearance fireplace and there is no brick chimney, you must attach the cleats to the wall studs with wood screws.

Finally, if you're replacing an old mantel, you'll probably have to do some repairs to the wall where the new profile doesn't match the old one. But once that's done, and with some well-placed patching compound, caulk along the exterior edges, and a final coat of finish at the end, you'll have a mantel that looks as if it's been there all along.

shopping list

1 MANTEL Compare kit with legs, a shelf, and optional fire doors mantels with casters and dowels, outdoor models, wet bars, lampshades, etc. Make sure fire features is included. Mantels are sold with a wood screw, which can be prefabricated.

To help out what size you need, measure your fireplace opening (allow enough room for the width and height inside the mantel cavity for safety codes). Also consider actual measurements and plan for the cut that you want the mantel shelf to be.

2 SHIMS To level the mantel.

3 2x4 LUMBER For cleats to attach the mantel to. If you have a 1/2-inch clearance, use 1/2-inch lumber. If the wall has 1 inch, use 3/4-inch. Use shims to attach the cleats to the studs.

4 1/2-INCH-LONG 3/8-INCH CONCRETE SCREWS To use in attaching the mantel to a brick chimney flue with fire 1 inch, use 3/4-inch. Use shims to attach the cleats to the studs.

5 2-INCH FINISH SCREWS To fasten the mantel to the cleats. Finish screws (like brads) have small heads that sink below the surface without the need to do countersinking.

6 FINISH NAILS To attach the mantel to the studs.

7 WOOD PUTTY To fill screw holes.

8 CAULK To fill gaps between the mantel and the fireplace.

step by step

1

Assemble the mantel pieces

Sand, then prime or stain the mantel before you begin. Wait until the materials are dried to apply the last coat at paint or stain.

Place the mantel shelf top down on a flat surface. Slide the legs on the shelf, making sure the cleats are facing the right way. Tighten the legs as you apply light pressure until the legs are tight. Tighten the screws a quarter turn to lock the cleats.

Hardwood veneer or stone manufacturers, but placing the shelf top down and sliding the legs on is usually the safest method.



2 Dry-fit the mantel

Place the mantel against the wall (you may need shims for this). Center it around the fireplace.

Place a 3-foot level across the mantel and check for level. Use a large level to see if the shelf is level front to back. Tap shims under the legs as necessary until it's level both ways.

Lightly trace the mantel's outline on the wall in pencil (0.077). This will give you a reference to help position the cleats.

TIP Mantels are top heavy. Allowing the shelf to sit slightly back toward the wall helps hold it in place during installation. You'll pull the legs flush with the wall as you screw to the cleat.



3 Position the cleats

With the mantel face down on the floor, measure the inside width of the shelf to determine the length of the horizontal cleat. Cut a 2x4 to this measurement in dry. In a place inside the shelf (on some mantels, the cleats may have to be installed in place to accommodate backing).

With the top of the cleat positioned in measure for the length and the depth of the vertical leg cleats (RIGHT). Cut 2x4 cleats double up for a thicker mantel, and dry-fit them inside the legs.

Don't want to split the cleats, though—dry-fit them in place, but they don't need to be held snugly together.



4

Tip ▶ Drill and screw into the brick, not the mortar. Brick is denser and will be the 1st screw securely.

4 Hang the cleats

Measure the thickness of the mantel edges that will sit flush against the wall underneath and shell. Mark the distance (usually 3/4 inch to 1 inch) on the wall at several points inside the pencil outline of the mantel's outline. Use the 3-foot level's edge to connect the dots to mark the places you'll hang the cleats.

Position the top cleat on the wall. Using a carbide-tipped bit on a hammer drill, bore four evenly spaced 3/8-inch pilot holes through the cleat and into the brick (1/2" T). Fasten the cleat to the brick with concrete screws (MS25T). Attach the side cleats in the same manner.

Install the mantel ▶ Fit the mantel over the cleats (MS247). Aligning it with the surface marks on the wall. Press all edges flush against the wall before fastening. If the cleat is not properly positioned, the mantel should fit over them like a sleeve.

Turn off the drill's forward action. Use a driver bit to drive 2-inch finish screws every 36 inches along the back of the shelf above the center of the top cleat. Do the same through the outer edges of the legs (not the face) into the side cleats (MS247). Set the screws heads just below the surface so they can be concealed later.



5



6

6 Finish the mantel

Using a hammer and 4d finish nails, attach the pieces of edge molding along the mantel's outer opening (LEFT) to cover the gap between the mantel legs and the bricks.

If you plan to paint the mantel, caulk any gaps along the wall. Putty over the screwheads (or fill them with plugs if you are not painting). Apply the final coat of paint or finish.



Fix your hand around thisshow.com/hertots

buying guide

A mantel is often the most prominent architectural feature in a room, so choosing one that suits the style of the house is important. Here are a few profiles that cover the looks from simple to elaborate.



SARGENT Despite its Victorian counterparts, this modern mantel features a distinctive, recent flourish in its shell-like, spiny ornaments. The paint grade is a MDF with a choice of hardwood veneer. \$456. tutwin.com



BELMARE Two combined profiles reminiscent of this solid cherry mantel's shell. The rounded legs repeat on the legs. Among the finishes. \$1,400. herthaus.com



BELLEVOUE With the classic paneling on the overmantel, this solid wood mantel measures a surprising 34 inches tall. Its slight overmantel of Gothic and Modern design is perfect for a formal, high-ceilinged space. Showroom is distressed finish. \$2,000. pearlwardill.com



CRAFTERMAN A pronounced taper gives this mantel's legs a monolithic stance. The woodered plinth at each leg is also used for the over-mantling under the shelf would fit nicely in a modern entrance. Shown in primed fiberboard. \$895. hazlermanmanteles.com



BEL AIR Using primed and naturally stained of marble, this mantel is otherwise in most replica of a French Louis XV-style antique. The splined legs and flared stretchers are carved from the original's carved trunks of flowers and acanthus leaves. \$1,500. findance-mantel.com



OLIVER The mantel's end and side soffits the square base of a brick surround. A center carving adds a decorative touch to the mantel design. Shown here in solid oak with a Mission Oak finish. \$895. pearlwardill.com

All prices are approximate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 10

Over the course of the renovation, the original Craftsman-style fireplace and built-in shelves were preserved, and the room was refinished with a mix of new and old materials. The original fireplace mantel was left untouched to protect its historical value.



TRANSFORMATIONS

The outside was slathered in misty pink stucco, the inside flaking with peeling peach paint. But underneath it all, a reluctant renovator and his wife discovered a 1911 Craftsman showpiece

Righting a Bungled BUNGALOW

by Nancy Cohen, housewife
photographs by Dominique Vertille
styling by Tatum Skelton





My first reaction to the house was NO WAY.

It looked like a big brown cake, sheathed in pink stucco, and at \$428,000, it didn't seem like such a steal, even for Los Angeles, and that was six years ago. I'd left the film business to run a dot-com, and my wife, Mary Beth, and I wanted to escape from the one-bedroom courtyard apartment—a regular Melrose Place, minus the drama—we'd lived in for 16 years. We'd been house-hunting for more than a year when the real estate agent told us to drive by a 3,000-square-foot bungalow, built in 1911. It was located just on the other side of the tracks—or rather the main drag—from the razz Hartshead Park neighborhood. If we liked what we saw, he'd take us inside.

LEFT: The toes of the bookcase are perforated after the master died in the living room. **THE VINTAGE L&L and C&W chairs** for over the dining table came from a salvage dealer. **BELOW:** The French doors and glass brick in the door were thick with white paint before they were stripped and stained.

I'd grown up in a Levittown-style ranch in Anaheim, with no design-sensitive whatsoever, the closest I got to having taste was that I had things from Kmart and Home Depot. But even then the inside of the house was great. After two more weeks of looking and finding nothing, though, the pink house didn't seem so bad. At least it was close to our neighborhood, and the agent assured us that the scale was worth a look.

So Mary Beth visited a few evenings later when I was out of town on business. In the living room, there was a beautiful fireplace with a brasswood-copper hood and tiles with marbled crackle screens on them—we later learned they were made by the famed Arts and Crafts alchemist Buckholder. A



Rather than sandblast the whitewashed brick porch piers, the homeowner painted them using a technique he learned on a model-train website

This original quarter-log cabin, which Mary Beth and Jerry painted, was built in the 1800s. The porch piers were painted with a technique learned on a model-train website.

fire was going and the house was so cozy. She called me, and said "I love it, I want it." So when I returned two days later, I went to see it. The woodwork, though painted, was original, and largely intact. The place had gone to put a window in, but the bones were in great shape, and it had a terrific view, a point quality to its craftsmanship. It needed more of a restoration than a remodel, all we had to do was dust what had once been there and bring it back. Second, very enough. I've also learned that if Mary Beth wants to change forever, I should just go with it. We had the money, so we painted it down and moved in.

As fate would have it, about 10 weeks later my Internet company went bust. We'd have to live off Mary Beth's college-professor salary and I found a job. And the \$10,000 we had set aside as down the money would have to be redoubled. The upside of unemployment was that I had my eyes free to make some of the work myself.

The first thing I did was strip and stain the French doors and woodwork as the den. I'd never done this kind of thing before. The soft pine was hard to stain without making a blotchy mess, since it tends to absorb color unevenly. Eventually I got it right, a couple of times, but I kept it to a dull white. The result gave me the first indication of what the house could be, and the most revealing bit was I'd stain the other woodwork the brown and lacquer about what by beneath all that paint. Mary Beth joked there must surely be a 12-step program for people with such obscure behavior.

Then project made me see what I could do—prep and paint, dig and haul—and what was beyond me in more cases I felt a pro would do better job. We didn't have much money to hire anyone, but we did have some very good friends.

One of them, Steve Falkow, was just starting his business as a restoration contractor and offered a reasonable rate when he needed to build his portfolio. Steve recognized the wood-work recovery in the living and dining rooms, which I discovered to rectify the paint in removing the previous owner's had cut-splashed the stained walls in an unpleasant shade of pinks. I scraped it off and found we'd papered the walls. Though moved by the discovery of what appeared to be the original wall coverings, Mary Beth and I knew that cloaking off a century's worth of grime and repairing all the gouges would cost a fortune. We'd do it there, but after a month of hard-swinging, Steve said, "If you keep the wallpaper, I'll restore it for free." That's what convinced us not to corner it over again—a bargain.

The more we looked about the place, the more we loved it. A cousin at the Smithsonian told us the Gothic model was typical of English Arts and Crafts and that the paper, which likely came from a high-end manufacturer in New York, was called original to the house. Somewhere in the 1800s or '20s, it had been covered with mass wallpaper, which pretty much preserved the original underneath. There were subsequent coats of paint, but they all came off with that acid-dye paper, which had been adhered with wheat paste. Some washed off the remaining



What We Did

Restored a 1801 farmhouse.
Residing cost: \$10,000.
Time frame: 6 years and counting.
Where we used: Using a decorative paint technique on the brick porch piers instead of sandblasting them, and having friends restore the wallpaper and design the porch by hand.
Where we shopped: Hiring pros to restore the

stucco and strip the living room and dining room woodwork. What we'd do differently: Use more drought-tolerant plants and have little or no lawn in the back.
Bigger challenge: Making the 1801 restoration addition of the porch had less part of the original house.
How we solved it: By visiting the roofline of the new porch people with that of the screeners.

Floor Plans

The interior layout remained the same, but enlarging an existing side porch and adding a second one expanded the house's footprint.

First floor



Second floor



30



BEFORE

Working with alabaster stucco, the homeowners painted the existing concrete back patio (RIGHT) with terracotta glue & acoustics, more finished look. (RIGHT) A new poplite overland provides shade and links the space visually with approach they added outside the sunroom. Removing a parking pad in back and installing a terraced deck surrounded by garden beds created a backyard oasis in the small urban lot.

TELL US YOUR STORY

Did you renovate your house and do most of the work yourself? Or is it a little bit of both? Tell us your story! Please send copies of before and after photos, a floor plan (we cannot return any artwork), and a brief description of the work you did to:

The Old House® Transformations,
1385 Avenue of the Americas,
20th Floor, New York, NY 10020
Or e-mail images and information to:
transformations@oldhouse.com.

The winner is paid \$250
if your house is featured.

For sponsor-dealing print entries
to your address:
RebuildHouse.com/foradvice



garden with a weeping and filled in garden in the original paper—some were 12 inches long—with matching paint. A case of brown brought back to home. After about three months, the paper was pretty much finished and I could see how it fit with the interior design. The couple who originally built the house definitely had a grand scheme for this place.

While shopping, more woodwork, we saw photos of other work that had been removed. We followed the outline of custom work on the existing trim to create new supports—like the kitchen and plant rail with corbels in the dining room. We also think the bookshelves they once stood in the transition between the living and dining rooms, working from the hand-drawn pattern on the wall into their corner. And we put back a cast-iron door that had been drypainted over in some years.

Finally, in 2003, it was time to tackle the outside. There, too, we found hidden gems behind badhouse cover-ups. A small interior we left on with enough cash to finally deal with the rusty peak eaves. Underneath were original and wood shingles, many of them in beautiful, though we purchased a few a thousand new ones. To choose a color palette, we drove around Pasadena, home to lots of great restored bungalows, and found one we loved: grayish-green with Oxford Blue on the roof and Indian Red on the trim. We knocked on the door and asked the owner for the paint information; they handed it to us a few days later.

The whitewashed back pillars on the porch now really stood out. Scuffblowing off paint makes brick too porous—and it's expensive. Instead, I found a model train set on the Web, and borrowed their brick rollers and discovered two more paint techniques to make it look like natural brick. As long as you don't expect it to do much, you can't tell.

Then, to the backyard. We added a new patch to the right of a sunroom that was added outside the house in 1939. On the left, we created a shallow existing porch so it's even with the back wall of the sunroom. Pergolas over both sides shed and create shade again to read the morning paper. Now we pretty much live out there year-round.

Our friend Nick Deane had dog great gardens in his native England, he needed someone to get the best of the best, so we took a trip, we got together work for him. Nick created an English country garden that slopes down over the lawn, with terraces that we designed together. I researched and bought materials—timbered brick and concrete tile for the patio floors inspired by a Giverny & Co. house in Giverny—and Mary Beth and Nick chose the plantings. My final touches were copper-topped lanterns that I designed in an Arts and Crafts style to a small scale to the house. The back felt like a secret garden, a refuge close to the city.

Much to my wife's dismay, I've discovered my inner craftsman, and I'm having a hard time stopping. There's plenty more to do—the kitchen needs a major overhaul—but now that we're once again out of debt, I'll have to do much of it on my own. And lucky, I still have a lot more friends. ■



glass mosaics

CRIN ADAMS DESIGN "Yes, there's plenty of glass tile out there. But there isn't much like the mosaic designs we use." Albuquerque studio Adams pioneered the "tumble" look for glass-creating patterns and borders for floors and walls that are almost dizzying in their complexity. An 18-person crew hand-sets the tiles on 12-by-12-inch sheets as they'll create a custom mosaic to your specs. Adams recently designed curved corner tiles for her signature "Zen wave" pattern shown above, to eliminate the need for a glass-edge. Albuquerque, New Mexico. 505.352.3035 crinadamsdesign.com

Photo: Lisa



Fast, hey, you. Wanna know whose got the best hardware? Or where to find that weird technical probe you've been hunting for? Come in, close the door, and we'll tell you a secret.

- Finding out where to get home products isn't always so hush-hush, but it sometimes feels that way. Architects and designers don't like to part with the suppliers they've casually cultivated. Luckily at The Do It House we have some pull with the pros. And we're using our power for your good.
- Last year we launched our first-ever Secret Sources list, with 25 tips for providers of lighting, flooring, doors, windows and more. This year we've added the entire 'ol list only here, we added to the list we've also launched it into cyberspace. At theidothouse.com/sourcelists, you'll find a link to our Secret Sources blog, where you can read about the famous manufacturers, offshoots, catalogs, and hidden gems we've discovered in the past year. And while you're there, send us notes and tell us about your own special places. It'll be just between us—we promise.

BY LINDA G. LENTZ

SECRET SOURCES 06

10 grilles ARCHITECTURAL GRILLE

That brass grille covering the fire hearth in your Craftsman bungalow may have looked good when it was new, but after a century of foot traffic, it's getting go 'faucon' bent around for a suitable replacement, or you can get the Gaudinista (other national) house their state of the art water pit outer to make you an exception. They can create virtually any pattern in metal or you can custom design. Designs in brass, bronze, stainless steel, aluminum, baked enamel, even wood and stone. Brooklyn, New York, 800-387-6867 archgrille.com

11 handmade tile CLASSIC TILE & MOSAIC

Dear if you don't live in one of the Spanish Revival houses that inspired Melissa Pedersen's original line of tile in the 2000s and '30s, you can still appreciate what these hand-painted reproductions do for a backdrop or fireplace surround. If you want to see for yourself, a special Web tool, stannytile.com, allows you to estimate the size of the tiles (over 300 available patterns) with the colors of your choosing. Then log them and a virtual installation. Los Angeles, California, 310-267-0342 stannytile.com

12 lanterns STEVEN KANDELMAN STUDIOS

The California artisan (also a hand-painted fence, permit) inspired iron lanterns with the same subtle interlocking designs and vibrant color palette as the original cast-iron. He offers more than 300 outdoor lights from ornate French hanging lanterns to simple Colonial wicker-style wall mounts with



a shade of clear frosted or etched. Looked away from. For the full portfolio among you, he lives with the lanterns for a gas lamp. Santa Barbara, California, 805-964-0239 stevenkandelmanstudios.com

13 mantels and surrounds SOLIS DECOR

Nothing matched the timeless elegance of a carved stone mantel. But it just matches the cost—or the weight—of the Solis's hand-cast concrete mantels and surrounds have the shape and solidity of polished limestone without the exorbitant price tag. If your taste runs more toward the contemporary, try the classic choice from among the many options for hand-carved stone in a clean, modern hue. Vancouver, British Columbia, 607-250-2876, solisdecor.com

**14 millwork
HULL HISTORICAL** If you're a fan of the window coverings for your Federal-style dining room, you'd be hard-pressed to find a better source than Hull's. Author of *Hull's Millwork: A Guide to Restoring and Re-creating Olden Windows and Moldings of the Late 18th Through Mid-19th Centuries*, Hull is an impressive catalog offers complete millwork packages for Victorian Arts and Crafts, Georgian Federal, and Greek Revival rooms. And if you can't find what you're looking for, he'll work with you to create the best design for your project. Fort Worth, Texas, 817-332-3499 hullhistorical.com

15 ornamental metalwork HISTORICAL ARTS & CASTINGS

In its 30-year history, the foundry has created a diverse range of designs for residential metalwork: gates, fences, and railings; and castings, door and window grilles, murals, plaques, and light fixtures. Find what you need, arrange for hundreds of photos and drawings on its website, or work with the company's customers on-site. Available on-site, by mail, or by phone, or aluminum. Or a similar work. The website and online sales, each decorative effects as Frank Lloyd Wright house numbers and reproductions of Louis XV-style medallions and bookends. New Haven, Utah, 800-288-2666 historicalarts.com



16 outdoor furniture VIKEN HILL CERAMIC PRODUCTS

If you want a lot of legs, what you'll like the exquisite modular designs of Viken Hill's garden, garden houses, and porches. Using the company's Web-based design tool, you can specify the components—Viken Hill's Queen Anne styling, single-tiered roof, or multiple, exposed or under-shingles, wood floor or none—and



with as your palette takes shape on screen in an instant. It may take you a little longer to assemble the pre-impressioned, but you can count on your children staying put for a while. "This is no order, so it's especially light in design and therefore resistant to dirt, weather, and insects," says a company rep. "We produce all the time from two core areas where the grille was the only thing left standing after a storm." Elmer, Pennsylvania, 800-423-3366 vikenhill.com

18 pendant lights DICKIE HOBBS

Pendant lights have become so popular that it can be a challenge to find something truly unique. That's why we want to introduce Jeremy Hobbs's hanging glass globes and cylinders. The vibrant colors and textures make the use of Thomas Edison, but with contemporary sensibility that cleverly bridges past and present. And because each fixture is hand-blown, you're guaranteed never to see another one just like it. New York, New York, 212-777-2300 nichemakers.com

19 plaster ornament OCEAS ARTS SUPPLY

Craftsmen may be lighter and cheaper, but nothing matches the crisp detail of real plaster ornament.

Containers

STONE FOREST Every garden needs a place to sit. The best ones built like they've been there forever. Stone Forest is guided by the "stone spirit" principle of Japanese design. "You don't want to overthink the strength of a natural material," says founder Michael Zimler. The simple round planters and tall spikes are carved, drilled, and selectively polished, as above. They look largely as you might find them in nature. Santa Fe, New Mexico, 813-582-2881 www.stonestone.com

SECRET SOURCES 06



And nobody is better at producing it than Decorators Supply. This 133-year-old company (founded by the third generation of the same family) has a library of approximately 400 richly detailed patterns for cast-iron cabinet moldings, ceiling medallions, rosettes, and more. And while the designs are clearly rooted in the past, the operation is strictly 21st century, with an excellent website (www.decoratorsupply.com).

20 reclaimed wood restoration timbers

When you're planning to use salvaged wood on a project, you usually have to settle for what's at the supplier's warehouse. But Jeff Stafford is so focused on pleasing customers that he'll send his crew out to recover the material and try to bring back exactly the material you want. "We like to take them from the beginning, to know what you're trying to accomplish," he says. Once they've found the perfect old planks, beams, or barn siding,

they'll install into flooring or wall paneling—or leave it just the way they found it—and ship it to you anywhere in the country. See www.reclaimedwood.com.

21 stainless-steel fabrication

EXHAUST If you have a small local fab shop to make you a stainless steel countertop, you can't always be sure of the outcome. But if you hire one of the biggest names in stainless-steel sink manufacturing to do it, that's another story altogether. Lasso will custom fabricate extensive product lines in the fact that they also fabricate cupboards finished with stainless-steel fronts or without integrating into other company's sinks. They've been doing it for more than 80 years, but want it spreading, now thanks to photo-fitted customizations on the website. An exclusive team assigned to your project will see it through from fabrication to final installation. Oak Brook, Illinois, 800-529-5268, lssfab.com.

22 textiles

DESIGNER When it comes to textiles, you don't have to settle for a unique pattern and being seen. Not when you can get, say, lacquered silk cultural silk robe from 120 percent overdone fibers from Sustainable Home Collective. Designer mixes the green for one of nature, offering low sustainable fabric for fabric in pattern and style suitable for upholstery, drapery, and bedding. New York, New York, 800-523-1940, designer.com.

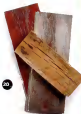
23 wainscoting hanting tile collection

COLLECTION Hanting tile is great, but using it in a bathroom can be problematic. Damp conditions make the wood swell, opening up unsightly gaps. So we were thrilled to discover the Goodline of 100 percent glazed ceramic tileboard. A designer for the first time, it can be used in bathrooms, kitchens, or anywhere where high humidity is a concern. On its for ceramic wainscoting panels that mimic applied moldings for a dimensional wall that will remain stable no matter what the environment. New York, New York, 800-892-0038, hantingtile.com.

24 window glass restoration

OLANS You have to love your windows, way old glass, but you need the performance of modern windows. Sundown, which has long

manufactured old restoration glass, now makes its own and offers a version that replicates the better imperfections but conforms to today's stringent building codes. Visit the website, 800-523-1259, www.sundownglass.com.



25 wood-burning stoves

WITTEN-FIRE BY DESIGN Most designers of wood burning stoves seem to get their inspiration from one of two places: Scandinavia or the Adirondacks. But Italian architect Antonio Citterio has looked elsewhere to the open, simple lines of the Shakers. The result is his stove of the same name, which elegantly integrates the stove's history into a comfortably white room-up-to-date stove. Pined Ridge, New York, 844-764-2670, witten.com.

26 wood flooring

T. HORTON & CO. CUSTOM WOOD FLOORING You can't be every color and size and wood floor dealer for the world, and you still can't find exactly the right combination of species, color, and grain. That's why you need T. Horton. This flooring company is fast making a name for its top-to-



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27



28 wood tile

FLUX STUDIOS INC. Wood wouldn't seem a natural choice for tile. Because it expands and contracts, great care needs to be taken. But Flux Studios has taken it as a challenge and created something new: a water-resistant, great-thickness, eco-friendly tile. It's a good thing because the company's 100% fiber-

wood mosaic—made from Chinese bamboo and sustainably harvested oak and rosewood—replicates the look of wood. It's beautiful, you'll want to tile your house in any room of the house. They're even available for the bath through the Hobbies & Crafts at the shower stall. Chicago, Illinois, 773-523-2339, fluxstudios.com.

GO-DATE BONUS

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White subway tile, full-coverage cabinets, and marble countertops outfit this pantry designed by Minneapolis interior decorator Todd Hansen. It is situated between the kitchen (left) through the doorway (right) and the dining room, where it reaches around off with a single swinging door.

behind CLOSED doors

Whether it's a simple shelf-lined closet or a fully plumbed room ringed with cabinetry, a pantry is the single best solution to kitchen overflow. Here's how to fit one into your house.

by Bob Langhart

It's a highlight of any open-house tour, one of those dramatic moments not unlike a car sale, when they carefully throw open a door or lead potential buyers through an entranceway to reveal what they know is pure house gold: the well-endowed shelves of a walk-in pantry. Images of antedated Price Club shopping carts through the reed. Finally, a place to tuck away those oversized platters that tumble out of kitchen cupboards and under-the-bed wedding presents that stub ties at night.

Today's pantries fulfill the same needs as they did centuries ago—as food storage centers or staging areas for formal meals—but they may also double as mini home offices, wet bars, mudrooms, or potting benches. Often, they come loaded with second sinks, islands, and ovens, and serve as a hiding place for the wrong of kitchen electronics. New space-efficient pantry cabinets that sit inside the kitchen even make the option available to the most space-starved of homeowners.

And demand for these dedicated storage centers has never been higher. "We spent the 1960s and '70s taking pantries out of older homes," says Wilmette, Illinois-based architect Healy Rice. "Now we're putting them back in." Read on for dozens of pantry ideas to put to work in your place.

The Walk-in

Clamoring old-fashioned bride's parents found in granddaddy's attic when the kitchen were small and there was no way to store so many things, this dedicated room is designed to accommodate a house's storage and food-grip needs.

Storage-Packed U-Shape

When charged with creating a pantry for The Old House TV's project in Catelee, Mass., a Greek Revival farmhouse with a barn addition, kitchen designer Kathy Marshall went for a U-shaped room located between the kitchen and the entry hall. "I wanted it to feel like it had always been there," says Marshall, who gave it a breakfast breakfast [1], a hanging countertop [2], an extra-past-aged white brown glaze and cabinetry and a new sliding front pane to the ceiling [3]. Because the 8' by 7-foot space was tight, Marshall customized storage for bulk items and linens by installing 20-inch deep base cabinets and 18-inch wide [4] and 12-inch cabinets on the other [5]. Glass-front upper shelves off-hat-for everyday dishes [6], while open shelves store grab-and-go items [7]. Because the pantry is highly visible in the old house, Marshall specified a decorative wrought-iron light [8] and reflected in this loss down another three recessed cans, in addition to undercabinet lighting [9].

DESIGN TIPS ■ See it again that both sides have to be equal in a U-shaped pantry—consider varying base cabinet depths to suit storage needs, deeper for plates and large counter-top appliances, shallower for pitchers and plates. ■ If the pantry is located in a high-trail area and off on display, select finish materials that echo those in adjacent rooms. ■ In smaller spaces, consider a pocket door to keep what you're hiding by door using built-in view.



Easy-Access L-Shape

Why are builders experiencing a steady demand for the open shelf L-shaped pantry closet? Because it's an inexpensive-to-build storage solution that doesn't require quite as much space as a U. It enables busy families to economize time money and fuel with fewer grocery store runs and a lot of room for organic or Costco purchases, and it can be located almost anywhere, from the basement to the mudroom, if it doesn't need to be accessed only. This one is located off the kitchen and runs from the ceiling [1] with adjustable shelves that are not 12 inches apart and 24 inches deep [2] to fit bulk paper towel packages and cases of bottled water. These shelves are spaced farther apart than those in an older pantry, says designer Nicole Licher of New Britain, Connecticut. "Supplies won't fit into conventional-size shelves. Bulk paper towel packages and cases of bottled water [3] organic and Costco packages don't fit into cabinets that need to breathe.

DESIGN TIPS ■ Think about creating a family drinking water station. Build the pantry along a wall that houses a water line connected to your home water purification system and install a commercial-style water dispenser unit. Design the unit into your pantry and/or at a child-friendly height. ■ In addition to open shelving, consider customizing with heavy-duty pull-out shelves or drawers for bottles and water-softening devices.



Door-to-Door

Long ago, common sense said why not maximize a hallway between the cooking zone at the kitchen and the entrance to the dining room—and the hallway pantry was born. By linking one's built-in walk-in upper and lower cabinets for storage and workspace for organizing food service, these transitional zones are cleverly transformed into fully outfitted, multifunctional spaces that meet the needs of busy households.

Pantry Plus Wine Bar ▶

For a couple that loves to entertain, it didn't have a dining room large enough for serving and storage needs, architect Holly Rice designed a handsome butler's pantry that runs in the classic configuration between kitchen and dining room as part of its addition. Ducted with a wine cooler, a second oven for holiday cooking (1) and plenty of cherry cabinets (2) for storing dishes, glassware and serving trays (3), the space is also party central when the family's socialites come. Because one wall (not shown) has a window that looks out of the front of the house, the homeowners wanted to finish the space with handsome materials, so they used granite counters (4), a glass tile backsplash (5), glass-front cabinets (6), and undercabinet lighting (7) that is turned on at night and visible from the street. "It's our dining room prep area, meal staging spot and all-around hangout," says the wife.

DESIGN TIPS ■ Don't make a pantry too narrow, especially if you're installing a fridge or an oven. Designers suggest at least a 5-foot-and preferably a 6-foot clearance between existing runs of base-cabinet units. ■ Consider extra-wide, 36-inch-deep toasters built into with a microwave or warming rack. ■ Be sure to include undercabinet features in a pantry that doubles as a food prep or serving station, to provide good task lighting.

Learn more about undercabinet lighting options: bit.ly/thisweekshome



Workstation and Storage

Southport, Connecticut architect Stuart Dorian was looking for a place to add a pantry and a home office when he remodelled a client's 1940s home without moving walls. Dorian conveniently installed both a desk area and pantry built into opposite walls along the 19-foot-wide hallway between the kitchen and the front hall. Using the same painted-cabinetry (1) along the hallway (2), an angle between oak floors (3) found throughout the house, Dorian developed the space's mixed usage. While a serving board (4) and wall of cabinets and shelves (5) solved the homeowners' dish, linen and small-appliance storage problems, the desk (6), with open shelving for stamps and mail as well as cabinets that hold a computer box and files (7), gave the family the off-the-kitchen home office they needed.

DESIGN TIPS ■ Use custom-built, no-brake everywhere to start a tricky space. ■ Vary work surface heights according to usage: 36 inches for standing around, 30 inches for seated desk units. ■ With a home office built into a pantry, be sure to install a computer tower that tucked inside cabinetry.

Three-Way Thoroughfare

When Montauk, New York kitchen designer Linda Burkhardt was called in to remodel this existing butler's pantry, she knew it could serve as much more than just a place to store silver, almost bridging the kitchen, the dining room and the patio. To expand the space without smaller serving guests indoors and out, two arched-cabinet walkways (1, 2) and an arched-cabinet sink (3) were installed within the high-arched facade (4) to provide ample clearance to fill vases for flowers brought in from the garden. Cabinets with divided light doors and exposed brass hinges (5) were built-in made to store glassware; they match an existing wall unit in the space. Platters, dishes, and silver are stored below. Red-Formica counters edged with stainless steel (6) match those in the kitchen and help tie the two rooms together.

DESIGN TIPS ■ If installing a wet-pantry locale for wine or olives or other delicacies or powder room will for easy access to water and mirrors. ■ For optimum storage, consider using drawers in arched-cabinet cabinets.



Hidden Asset

Only you know it's there—and that's the way you like it. Cabinet companies are offering more and more pantry units that fit into a corner of kitchen space.

The Space-Saver

Tucked into a 30-inch-wide cubby that runs up to the ceiling [1], this color-coordinated cabinet by SeaMatic makes use of both fixed in-the-door shelves [2] and interior wire baskets mounted on vertical tracks [3] that move forward automatically when the door opens, so contents are front and center. A roll-out bottom shelf [4] holds cases of water or Pepsi. It comes in a variety of materials, solid-wood, and wood-veneer finishes [5].

DESIGN TIPS ■ To give pantry cabinets a lighter "baking" look, choose the standard 4-inch touchlocks as a function, provides a stainless steel ■ Select the style that suits your space constraints. A single pull-out with shelves is better for both sides. If you're in 30 inches, sliding out medium get it under another counter space.



The Multitasker

Think of this as mini-kitchen. This 36-inch-wide 96-inch-tall pantry closet by Brainerd is lined in aluminum [1] for easy cleanup when stocked with food-prep appliances such as a microwave. Equip it with shelves for a smoothie station or with a stored mixer for a baking center. Wire shelves hold everything from glassware to bottles [2]. Hinged-front 36-inch drawers [3] store up to 350 pounds of pots or heavy pans, and self-closing mechanisms means you'll never nick your shins on an open drawer. Available with laminate [4] or wood-veneer finish.

DESIGN TIPS ■ Kiger tan always bolter. While this unit is also available at a 6-foot width, extending beyond that can lead to sagging shelves. ■ Don't forget to plan ahead for electrical outlets to power small appliances hidden inside. ■



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PHOTOGRAPH BY
DAVID FRINGS

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Level vs. Plumb Bob

I once saw a *This Old House* episode where the door jambs were set with a plumb bob. Can you tell me why this tool was used instead of a level?

CHARLES SHIELDS, LUBBOCK, TEX

Ten Sola replies: Holding a level vertically against a jamb is a flaky way to check for plumb, and it's vulnerable to wind. I never question a plumb-bob's accuracy, and it's a lot easier to carry around. Plus, I can hang down string with a bob and string. I just measure horizontally from the rest string to the jamb, and there the job's until it's the same distance from the string from top to bottom. Using a plumb-bob takes a little practice, but once you get the hang of it, you'll see why it's the method I prefer.

Getting Grown by Hand

I'm a dinosaur when it comes to using and boarding, I make my cuts with a back saw.

20th-century carpenter from Adams shows how he (and Tom Silva) use a plumb bob on door jambs by measuring from the string to the jamb. Photos courtesy of the author unless noted.

with a slatted roller box. That works fine, but when it comes to crown molding, I can't seem to cut against the happy with. How can I get good results without using power tools?

BILL RUSSELL / RICE, ARIZONA, PA.

Nemo Manuagregio: For starters, you need the right kind of miter box. Those slotted wood or plastic boxes wear out quickly, aren't very precise, and limit the cuts you can make to 45 and 90 degrees. A metal miter box fits into a miter box and it holds a long, built-in hand saw that can be adjusted to make cuts at any angle you'll need for crown. This comes in handy when cutting the joints on outside corners, which are seldom exactly 90 degrees.

Too Much Dust

My new fan is a forced-air heating and cooling system, and her home always seems very dusty. Yet the filters never seem to get dirty. This air returns are working fine, pulling in enough air to hold a piece of paper in place. What's going on?

ANTHONY MELO, WEST CALIFORNIA, N.J.

Richard Trethewey replies: I can't tell you exactly, but I know which suspects to send up your filter and your ducts.

I'll bet you're using those cheap, disposable spun-fiberglass filters, which may only be the biggest chunks of dust and do almost nothing to improve indoor air quality. Replacing them with pleated filters rated for the blower capacity of your system should put a big dent in the problem, as long as you change them when they get dirty.

You probably also have leaky ducts. According to one estimate, about 20 percent of the air that goes through a typical forced-air

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New Plugs for Old Cords

What to do when a cord is one plug short of a job.

RELATED STORY: 10 POWER PLUGS

The prongs on older power cord plugs are easy to bend and break.

As you get older, you'll find that a lot of the time you need to buy a new cord. But when a plug is the problem, you can just buy a replacement plug and save your old cord from the trash. Here's how to do it.



1. First, cut off the damaged plug. Then use a utility knife to strip and slice off the jacket about 1/2 inch from the end of the cord. Take care not to cut the three wires inside. Using a wire cutter, strip the three wires about 1/2 inch from the end of each wire.

2. Open the replacement plug so you can reach the terminals inside. Attach each section of stripped copper to the appropriate terminal: screw green wire to the green grounding screw, white (neutral) to the silver screw, and black ("hot") to the brass screw.

Wrap the wire clockwise around the terminal and tighten each screw securely. 3. Reassemble the replacement plug and tighten the screws holding it to the cord. Test it using the method explained in "Good Test" at right. —THOMAS BRACK

GOOD TEST

To see if a cord is working properly, plug it into a three-prong receptacle. Then, fit a plug-in-type circuit tester onto the cord's other end. The tester's lights will indicate whether the wires are hooked up correctly and the cord is grounded.



How to Lay Out Curves

Simple ways to make smooth shapes.

RELATED STORY: 25 WOODWORKING TRICKS

Point compasses and pencils to draw arcs in all five ways to draw tight curves, but lay out long smooth curves with a different kind of tool: the batten. These slender strips of burl, bamboo, acrylic, or wood (typically 1/2- or 3/4 inch thick) are springy enough to be bent into a fair, smooth curve, but stiff enough to hold a pencil with out wobbling. You can make your own batten by ripping them out of flat pieces of wood or from the acrylic sheets discarded by window glass repair shops. Here are five ways to get just the curve you're looking for.

1. One-time use. Drive nails into your workpiece or template at the beginning, end and points of the curve. Then fix the batten to the curve you desire. Clamp a stick square to the batten's corner as shown to hold that curve as you draw it out.

2. Repeat work. When you don't want to drive nails into your work or need to repeat a specific curve, turn your batten into a batten can. Insert its ends into a length of batten (see next) or one end of the batten (see next). You can adjust the batten's curve by tying a new batten end (or replacing your own). —JOE HUNTER/ALAMY



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Norm's Notebook

A MASTER CARPENTER WORKS AROUND HIS TECHNIQUES FOR LONG-EXTENSION CORDS, FEATURED IN TOOLBOX, P. 28

EXTENSION CORDS

Staying Connected

The last thing you want when you trip, slip or fall is to have the extension cord come unplugged. There are many devices you can try to hold plugs together, but this simple method works for me. Just line up the cords side by side, then tie them both in a loose overhand knot about a foot from the ends, as shown at right. Now when you plug them together, they'll stay that way without jerking the wires.



Don't leave an extension cord tightly coiled while using it. It can overheat, damage the cord, and create a fire hazard.

Tape Repair

If the jacket on the outside of a cord becomes nicked, worn or cut, wrap it with a few turns of electrical tape. Start the tape at a right angle about an inch away from the damage and tie it lightly around the cord in overlapping turns. Each turn should cover half of the previous lap, so there are two layers of tape over the cord. Continue outside tape to about an inch on the other side of the damage.

If a cord is cut so deeply that you cannot see the wires, replace it. "Repaired" or "re-wired" but I still get for me, we're it might be a safety hazard.



How to Coil a Cord

When you're done using an extension cord, coil it up. It's the best way to protect it from damage during storage, and it's easier to use when you're not taking it apart. To coil it properly, hold it with your hand and elbow. This shows the cord's wires and electrically grounding it. Now it's time to coil it up.

- 1. Knot.** Using a bowline knot, tie a loop on one end of the cord lying straight line. Knot the other end permanently to one end of the extension cord.
- 2. Coil.** Gather the extension cord into large coils. Make each one from about 5 feet of cord.
- 3. Hang.** Hang the line around the extension cord then hang it from the loop, out of the way.



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2. the later glow that drives Okemo's up-mid Grooming Team into help-gone

See also: 100 YEARS OF OKEMONOGAMY - 100 MAGAZINE, OCT. '14



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Agency, Washington, DC, 202-343-5262
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KEY POINTS

Working the Angles (pg. 27-29)
Architect Dave Dickson Architect, Midvale
 CT 06040-0408 dickson@aol.com
General contractor Mark Snyder, Cuedis
 Interiors Architects NY 567-804 3790
Contractors DWYDEWS Brooklyn NY
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 marvelindustries.com **Washes** Waco
 Maytag, Cleveland, TN 800 628 9900
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 Ginger model G27-064. Modern Euro. Blu.
 model RP464013. Hybrid. American Standard.
 model MP63570. G230A. Antique. Price.
 Planet model R89-77PC. Multi-spray.
 Hengshike model Z383303. Low-Profile.
 Grohe model 28373. Three-Way. Kohler.
 Model K-8284. Seaborn. Moen model.
 G2300RD. Mifit. Shower. Trimbydesign.
 model T80284.

Source Path 10: Redundant as

Two-Cook Kitchens (pp. 34-35)
Thanks to—William Green & Associates
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212-665-1785. donblumdepot.com
Zhuwei Li—Eugene O Gunkl professor of
architecture and director of preservation study
at Tulane University, New Orleans, La. li@tulane.edu

DOI: 10.1002/for

Kitchens and Bath Designers: **Kirby Marshall**
C&D: Kirby Marshall Design Inc., Hamilton, MA
978-458-1199 kirbymarshall.com
Thanks to— Amy Nell McInnes, Gordon
Hall & Associates Inc., San Francisco, CA
Gordon Hall calls: Antonio Pardo and Laurie
Van Amburg, Seattle, WA, 206-829-8464
John McCaleb, McCaleb Construction Inc.,
Tucson, AZ, 520-323-2100
mccalebconstruction.com

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formulas.com: Lowrance/Winbatts, Noel, Michigan, 877-676-7463
Finplate: Merit, Design, Inc., Portland, OR, 503-251-7171
901-851-8232 www.merit.com

Source: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs104/en/>

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nickdeangarden.com **Exterior lanterns
and:** Ogden Garden Interiors Richard
Morris Design Craftsmen Arts and Crafts
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Source: *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 93, 1998, 1031-1042.

CHS INC. PHOTO ARCHIVES: Todd Hansen
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starchitects.com **Connectors:** Harry
Jensen Harry Jensen Construction
Minneapolis, MN 612 824 2996 **Colloids:**
Admiral Wood Products, Lakeville, MN
952 435 7504 **THE WALK IN Kitchens:**
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kmarshall.com **Colloids:** Plan &
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PICTURE AGLUTINUM summer night in 1930s Caro Georgia. At this time, crop while claspboard facade, home to the late Atlanta Mayor Robert R. Ross VanLandingham. Inside a perfect well to do teenagers—the mayor's daughter Mabel included—will up the junior crop. Since 76 rpm Tommy Dorsey album on the Victrola and start singing like they're at the Savoy Ballroom.

It's a scene Mabel (now 80) remembers well. She also remembers about roller skating with her brothers and sisters in the house's 10-foot-wide wraparound porch and the frequent meetings her mother had for the many civic and religious organizations she headed.

Today the house stands quiet and empty in a way since 1994, when Mabel's mother, then 100, moved into a nearby assisted living facility. Out front, where the VanLandingham kids played as a spacious yard, the road has expanded into a heavily trafficked commercial corridor. Alcorn bank wishes to expand on the site, and is offering the house for free to anyone willing to move it. Mabel and Thomasville Landmarks, a local preservation society, are hoping someone will do just that: sell it, can't be lived in and danced in anymore.

Along with about a century's worth of warm memories, the cross gridded five bedrooms are hewn to the original heart pine floors, ceilings, wooden trim, tenets, pocket doors, moldings, and mantels that were installed when it was built for Mabel's grandfather, Robert Lee VanLandingham, back in 1912. It's also got a second floor sleeping porch, original eight over one windows, and a movable dining room separated from the parlor by a single pocket door.

Whoever buys the house will have a part in keeping the memories of one of Caro's first successful families alive. "I hope there will be some interest in preserving this old house," says Mabel. "I had a lot of fun in it, and I have many stories to tell." Save the place, and you'll get the chance to tell some of your own. —KATHY MCGILL



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
An arched porch was
removed in the 1950s and
replaced with an attractive
wooden entry porch.
A side view of the house
reveals three steep
stairs on each of its
gables. The front door and
sidelights are all topped
with transoms. A
handcrafted mantelpiece
orients pillars in the parlor
to one of the four original
mantels in the house.
Behind the side staircase
is a partitioned space
with built-in cabinetry.



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